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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ON3 BORDER GUARD OTRYADDescription of Border From N 4119, E 2308 to N 4124, E 2327

1. border from the western marker of Roza Zastava in the vicinity of the old Bulgarian 5th border post (N 4119 E 2308/09) as far east as the eastern marker, elevation (kota) 372 (N 4124 E 2327) of Elkha Zastava near the village of Novo Khodshovo. This area is described as follows from southwest to northeast:
 - a. The first line extended from the old Bulgarian 5th border post to the forest east of the source of the Petrich river which is called Kongora (N 4119 E 2311). During the months of June, July and August 1953, an engineer unit, Podalenie 0.750 (see para 93 above), built a barbed wire fence in pyramidal shape, two meters high and three meters wide at the base of each triangle. The fence was built in the middle of a clearing in the forest which was about 50-60 meters wide. A path, running along the fence, was used by the border patrols which inspected the fence to spot traces of illegal border crossers. The clearings along the fence were always cut on the flat sections of ground and not in valleys or on hills, so that the Border Guards could easily spot trespassers in these clearings. Because of land contours these clearings were not always parallel to the border. At some places they touched the border and at others they went inland as far as one and one-quarter miles. The felled trees and branches removed from these clearings were used to build special fences along the edges of the clearings near the border. These fences were roughly constructed and 3-4 feet high. There was a clearing located at a point northeast of the old Bulgarian 5th border post where one gully, enclosed by the places called Kara Gabar and Kulski Rid, joined another gully called Ivanil Dere. This clearing was 2.20 meters from the border at this point and continued in a southeasterly direction along the eastern slope of the Ivanil Dere gully in a straight line toward the big curve in the road near the border section which was close to Kongora elevation. The clearing continued across the road between Kongora elevation and the location of the Observation Post at Kongora, and, following a northeasterly direction, re-crossed the road, which paralleled the border, cut into the forest and descended toward the source of the Petrich river. Informant does not know whether the fences terminated at this point. In this border area the lines dividing Greece and Bulgaria were not clearly defined. In this section there was a telephone line from Roza Zastava to the westernmost marker of the Zastava which was the old Bulgarian 5th border post. At the location where the fences passed between Kongora elevation and Kongora Observation Post there was an opening in the barbed wire fence called a Sekreta which was probably used as an inspection point for patrols on duty.
 - b. The second line began at the Petrich-Kongora road about 100 meters north of the building of Roza Zastava (N 4120 E 2311) and extended in a straight line toward the Petrich river basin to a place (N 4121 E 2312) near the western side of the place known as Yalovarnika (N 4120/21 E 2312/13). This line made only a slight curve when it passed through the place known as Slanik (N 4121 E 2311/12). The barbed wire fence was about 2-3 meters high. It was a single fence with four rungs of barbed wire between which twigs had been woven. This fence was built during the months of June-July-August 1953 by the engineers or sappers of Podalenie 0.750 (see para 93 above). Most characteristic of this barbed wire fence was the fact that it was located very far from the border, averaging a distance of 2-3 kilometers from the border. The fence passed in the middle of a clearing through the forest. Observation platforms were installed at three places in the length of this fence and clearing. The soldiers posted on these platforms could observe this clearing and the fence which passed through it. Between the first and second lines there was

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an area about two kilometers wide which was not protected by any barriers or fortifications. Therefore, this area was guarded by two details known as CHERVENA PRUST and SKRITATA NABLYUDATELNITSA Sekrets (see para 164 above). Between the end of the barbed wire fence of the first line at the location (N 4119 E 2311) and the curve of the barbed wire fence in the second line at the location (N 4121 E 2313) there were no barriers nor fortifications.

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- c. The third line began at the Petrich river basin (N 4121 E 2312) and extended to the old Bulgarian border post (N 4122 E 2313) which was southeast of the building of Breza Zastava. This line was composed of a clearing and barbed wire fence which were similar to those of the second line with several parts of the fence similar to that of the first line. From the Petrich river basin the line continued in an almost easterly direction and in a straight line, crossing the place known as Yalovarnika. On an elevation between two ravines the line reached the border at a place (N 4121 E 2313) where a road, paralleling the border, formed a large curve toward the interior. The clearing and barbed wire fence were built during the months of June-July-August 1953 by Podalenie 0.750 which is described in para 93 above. Although Informant never visited the area between this location (N 4121 E 2313) and the old Bulgarian border post (N 4122 E 2313), he heard from other soldiers that there was a barbed wire fence in the area. There were no ploughed strips of land near the border between the old Bulgarian 5th border post (N 4119 E 2308/09) and the old Bulgarian border post (N 4122 E 2313) and there are none near the barbed wire fences described in paragraphs a, b, and c above.

- d. The fourth line extended from the old Bulgarian border post (N 4122 E 2313) to the cemetery (N 4123 E 2319) of the village of Topolnitsa. A barbed wire fence similar to that described in para b above extended the whole length of this line. In some places this fence was only several meters from the border markers which were pyramids of stones.

The fence has been built during the spring of 1952 by sappers of the 3 Border Guard Otryad Sapper Platoon. Between Topolnitsa cemetery and Breza Zastava there was a ploughed strip of land about 12 meters wide on the northern side of the barbed wire fence. On the northern side of this strip there was a small path for the Border Guard patrols which daily checked the fence and the strip, looking for footprints or other disturbances. About October 1953 this strip was removed. There was a similar ploughed strip of land between the Topolnitsa cemetery and the western stik (boundary) of Minzokhar Zastava near the former Bulgarian border post located southeast of this Zastava at a place N 4123 E 2315/16.

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- e. The fifth line extended from the Topolnitsa cemetery to the western side of the Struma river (N 4121 E 2320). A barbed wire fence was built on this line and it consisted of two rows of piles, each of which was 2-2½ meters high. The distance between each row was about two meters. Many rungs of barbed wire were stretched horizontally and diagonally between the piles of each row. There was a ploughed strip of land and a path on the Bulgarian side of this fence. The fence, ploughed strip and path were located at a place between the border and the road connecting the village of Topolnitsa with the place known as Ostrova (N 4121 E 2320) which was near the place where the Struma river crosses the border.
- f. The sixth line extended from the Struma river to the western stik of Elkha Zastava near the village of Novo Khodzovo (N 4124 E 2324). The latter point was in the area belonging to Kokiche Zastava which was located near the village of Kulata (N 4122/23 E 2321). A barbed wire fence extended from the village of Kulata to the western stik of Elkha Zastava. This fence was of the same construction as that described in para e above.

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Along one side of the fence were a ploughed strip of land and a path. At the Novo Khodzovo end of this fence there was a Sekret post and a telephone line extending from the Zastava.

- g. The seventh line extended from the western stik of Elkha Zastava to the line connecting the old Bulgarian border post of elevation 223.7 with the Greek border post E.F. 83 (N 4123 E 2325) which was about two kilometers long and was protected by the Petrovska and Bistritsa rivers. There was no barbed wire fence in this area but there was a ploughed strip of land between the rivers and the small road which paralleled the strip and connected the villages of Piperitsa and Kulata. There were two night Sekrets located near each end of this area. There was also an early morning Dozor and a telephone line for the area which was patrolled by soldiers of Elkha Zastava. At the eastern end of this area there was a barbed wire fence which extended in an easterly direction.
- h. The eighth line extended from the line above (N 4123 E 2325) to the eastern stik of Elkha Zastava, running south of elevation 372 (N 4124 E 2327). A barbed wire fence extended the length of this line and it was the same type as that of para b above. There was no forest on this line and therefore there was no clearing necessary.

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Rear Zastava in 3 Border Guard Otryad (See para 114 a above)

- 4. A Rear Zastava (Tilna Zastava). [redacted] code name Toplinka, was formed during May 1952 [redacted] This Zastava, which occupied a building near the railroad station of Mari Kostenovo (N 4126 E 2321), maintained the following Sekrets until it was disbanded in the autumn of 1952 and its members returned to the Otryad Maneuver Group:
 - a. Three to four soldiers guarded the narrow railroad bridge which was the furthest east of the three bridges across the Struma river at a place (N 4127 E 2317); this was only a night Sekret; and
 - b. Three to four soldiers guarded the Petrich-Sveti Vrach road bridge (N 4130 E 2315/16); this was only a night Sekret.

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